

BELMONT HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Town Hall

July 2, 2008

Meeting Minutes, taken by Paul Bell

Attending: Co-chairs Richard Cheek and Michael Smith, Paul Bell, Arleyn Levee, Richard Pichette and Peter Gunness.

Discuss proposed Historic Accessory Building Preservation By-law with Jay Szklut, Planning and Economic Development Manager

Mr Szklut noted that approx. ½ of 1% of the existing housing stock of Belmont would be effected by this By-law (+-18 houses). Most of the BHDC members supported the idea of adaptive reuse of historic structures but some members thought that this by-law should allow for more than 35 days for the review period, more strictly define accessory use, clarify what exhibits are required of the owner before starting the 35 day review period, clearly define the number of allowable automobiles on site, and provide a more detailed design review process. Preserving the barn and its site was also a stated goal of the BHDC. Mr Szklut would take this and other comments under advisement and return to a future BHDC meeting with his suggested rewording of said document.

Review application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a shed dormer addition and window renovations at 561 Pleasant St.

The Certificate of Appropriateness for a shed dormer addition was denied by a unanimous vote because it was considered to be out of proportion (too large) for the house to which it would be attached. Additionally, more detailed information was requested by the BHDC for any future review involving any proposed window and/or skylight alterations.

Update on tree planting and sidewalk construction for the Pleasant St. Reconstruction Project. No further information was available.

Update on plans to place additional cooling equipment on the grounds of the Homer Bldg. BHDC is waiting for additional information from Jeff Conti.

Update on Planning Board's outline for a Comprehensive Plan for Belmont. No further information was available.

Update of Belmont St./Trapelo Rd. Corridor Project

A meeting was held with Peter Briere, BSC group, Glenn Clancy and a sub group of the BHDC to review the 25% completion submittal to the State Highway Department on the above referenced project. At the end of this meeting all parties thought it would be helpful to convene a meeting with BSC's landscape architect, the BDHC, Belmont's tree warden and the Shade Tree Committee to help develop the plans' final tree selection and placement. BSC will organize said meeting.